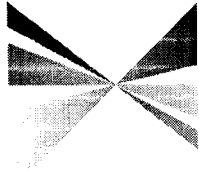


SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



**ASSOCIATION of
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Correa, County of Orange

Riverside County Transportation Commission:
Robin Lowe, Hemet

Ventura County Transportation Commission:
Keith Millhouse, Moorpark

5/9/05 2:24/05

MEETING OF THE

REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TASK FORCE

Monday, November 21, 2005

10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

SCAG Offices

**818 W. 7th Street, 12th Floor
Riverside B Conference Room
Los Angeles, California 90017
213.236.1800**

VIDEO CONFERENCE LOCATION

**SCAG, Riverside Office
3600 Lime Street, Suite 216
Riverside, CA 92501**

If members of the public wish to review the attachments
or have any questions on any of the agenda items,
please contact Deby Salcido at 213.236.1993 or
salcido@scag.ca.gov

Agenda and minutes are available on the web at:
www.scag.ca.gov/rcp

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REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TASK FORCE

AGENDA

November 21, 2005

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Honorable
Pam O'Connor, Chair

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Members of the public desiring to speak on an agenda item or items not on the agenda, but within the purview of the Committee, must fill out and present a speaker's card to the Assistant prior to speaking. A speaker's card must be turned in before the meeting is called to order. Comments will be limited to three minutes. The chair may limit the total time for all comments to twenty (20) minutes.

3.0 REVIEW and PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS

4.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

4.1 Minutes of October 24, 2005 01

5.0 ACTION ITEMS

5.1 Water Chapter Dan Grisct 04 30 Minutes
Attachment SCAG Staff

Staff will review the scope and approach for the Water Chapter of the RCP.

Recommended Action: Report to the EEC Committee.

6.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

6.1 Finance Section Annie Nam 09 20 Minutes
Attachment SCAG Staff

Staff will review the scope and approach for the Finance Section of the RCP.

REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TASK FORCE

AGENDA

6.2 Open Space and Habitat Chapter
Attachment

Jessica Kirchner **11** **20 Minutes**
SCAG Staff

Staff will review the discussion from the October
RCP Task Force Meeting.

7.0 **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Honorable
Pam O'Connor, Chair

8.0 **STAFF REPORT**

9.0 **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Any Committee members or staff desiring to place items on a
future agenda may make such request. Comments should be
limited to three (3) minutes.

10.0 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

11.0 **ADJOURNMENT**

The next meeting of the Regional Comprehensive Plan Task
Force will be held at the SCAG offices on January 23, 2006.

Regional Comprehensive Plan Task Force

Action Minutes for October 24 , 2005

The following minutes are a summary of actions taken by the Regional Comprehensive Plan Task Force.

The Regional Comprehensive Plan Task Force held its meeting at the Southern California Association of Governments offices in Los Angeles. There was a videoconference at the SCAG Inland Office in Riverside. The meeting was called to order by Chair Pam O'Connor, Santa Monica.

Committee Chair: Pam O'Connor, Santa Monica

Members Present

Cook, Debbie
Feinstein, Michael
Nowatka, Paul
O'Connor, Pam
Pettis, Greg
Young, Toni

Representing

Huntington Beach
Ex-officio
Torrance
Santa Monica
CVAG
Port Hueneme

Members Absent

Aldinger, Jim
Bowlen, Paul
Garcia, LeeAnn
Miller, Mike
Ovitt, Gary
Perry, Bev

Representing

Manhattan Beach
Cerritos
Grand Terrace
West Covina
San Bernardino
Brea

New Members

None

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Paul Nowatka, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:41 a.m. and Greg Pettis led the group in the flag salute.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None offered.

3.0 REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS

Review 5.2 before 5.1.

4.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

4.1 The minutes of October 3 were approved as amended.

Regional Comprehensive Plan Task Force

Action Minutes for October 24 , 2005

5.0 ACTION ITEMS

5.1 Open Space & Habitat

Jessica Kirchner, SCAG staff, provided background on the chapter.

Nancy Settle, Ventura County Transportation Commission and Liz Chatin, Ventura County Planning Development Biologist provided a powerpoint presentation on Designing Road Crossings for Safe Wildlife Passage: Ventura County Guidelines.

Action: The Task Force, without objection, approved a report to the Energy and Environment Committee and requested a follow-up report to review Task Force discussions.

Dan Silver of the Endangered Habitat League participated in the Task Force discussion on goals. The Task Force identified the following potential goals/outcomes for the _____.

Open Space

- X Acres
- Park/Pop Ratio
- ____ Avis Compass
- Various Development Templates
- Urban & Wildlife Concepts Distinct
- Clean Water/Air
- Cumulative Impacts
- Conformity
- Need Agricultural Land For Food
- Waterway

Habitat

- No Net Reduction in Species Populations Due to Development (check w/ stated goals by stakeholders)
- Understand Cumulative Impacts
- ESA Compliance
- Conformity
- Promote Habitat & Biodiversity
- Marine/Fisheries
- Waterways

Organizational

- Consistent, Coordinated Planning
- Tools & Incentives
- Specific Guidance w/ Optional Implementation
- Natural Values Cost re: Planning Process
- More Effective Tools & Incentives \$\$
- Tech Assistance Advice Best Practices
- Catalyze Additional Work
- Equal Standards

5.2 Security & Emergency Preparedness

Alan Thompson provided a report on the proposed scope and approach for the Chapter. With this approach emergency county and management bureaus would be interviewed to determine what their roles and responsibilities are and how they interact with local jurisdictions. The process will be determined at the local level and then state and federal levels. If any shortfalls exist, SCAG will look at how it can have a role to mitigate.

Action: The Task Force, without objection, instructed staff to provide a report to the Transportation and Communications Committee.

Regional Comprehensive Plan Task Force

Action Minutes for October 24 , 2005

6.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

None

7.0 CHAIR'S REPORT

None

8.0 STAFF REPORT

Jacob Lieb distributed copies of the new logo for the Regional Comprehensive Plan.

9.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

10.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Dark in December

11.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:28 p.m. The next Task Force meeting is scheduled for November 21, 2005, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

REPORT

DATE: November 21, 2005

TO: Regional Comprehensive Plan Task Force

FROM: Daniel E. Griset, Senior Regional Planner, (213) 236-1895, griset@scag.ca.gov

SUBJECT: Themes for the Water Resources Chapter

GENERAL BACKGROUND:

Clean and reliable water in the SCAG region is essential to the future quality of life in our growing region. The projected growth in population and economic activity is certain to increase the water challenges the region will face in the coming years. These challenges include the creation of environmentally sustainable communities, the management of stormwater and urban runoff pollution in general (and around transportation activities in particular), interagency collaboration and initiatives within shared watersheds, the development of new local water resources and infrastructure, the expansion of current water conservation programs, the on-going availability of imported supplemental water supplies, the increased use of water markets and transfers, the development of improved water treatment technologies and the increased coordination of policy and resources among all levels of government. Without success across this broad menu of challenges, the SCAG region will experience limitations that are certain to undermine economic progress, as well as the sustainability of our vital human and natural ecosystems.

Regional policies have been adopted by the Regional Council to address these challenges. These range from the Council's consideration of significant regional water issues to adopted mitigation measures identified in the Programmatic Environmental Impact Reports of past Regional Transportation Plans. In general, these policies have focused on improving regional environmental quality and best management practices, cost-effective watershed pollution controls and reliable water supplies for growing urban communities. These themes will be developed in the draft Water Chapter of the Regional Comprehensive Plan.

SPECIFIC THEMES:

The Chapter will include the following kinds of discussion:

Theme 1: *The creation of environmentally sustainable communities.*

Water quality and water supply are influenced by the design elements used in planning and creating new communities. Compact development designs that reduce impervious surfaces and increase natural areas not only allow for natural runoff purification treatment, but also save stormwater for groundwater infiltration.

- There is an important linkage between low-impact development, water quality and

environmentally sustainable systems. The Chapter will present the typical features of low-impact development, reference examples in the SCAG region where it is being used, and suggest the environmental dangers that would otherwise follow more typical and traditional approaches to local land use. Included in this discussion of sustainability will be a review of building policies and approaches that create high water use efficiencies and make constructive use of available waste streams, counteract heat island effects associated with certain site designs and protect against the location of development in floodplains.

Theme 2: *The management of stormwater and urban runoff pollution.*

Water quality regulators are issuing increasingly stringent rules to reduce local stormwater and urban runoff pollution. These regulations apply to individual jurisdictions and, by various studies, are expected to be very costly mandates for local agencies in the SCAG region. Based on SCAG's historic interest in "areawide waste treatment management planning", regional policy emphasizes the need for watershed-scale planning (a new way of describing "areawide planning") and implementation of pollution control measures. This scale of environmental management is expected to bring needed improvements on a much more cost-effective basis than from individual projects in each local jurisdiction. This same approach offers Caltrans and other regional transportation agencies new ways to reduce their runoff management costs.

- Several recent studies have underscored the importance of water quality regulations in the region, especially when the estimate of regional costs for purifying stormwater are in the billions of dollars. The Chapter will review the findings of these studies as a way of looking at different viewpoints on stormwater management, the need for source controls and collaborative planning of pollution control measures. This theme has a relationship with the previous discussion of low impact development, an approach that minimizes stormwater runoff and, as a result, eliminates flows that otherwise transport pollutants and impair many of the region's waterbodies. Appropriate land use policies represent one of the most important forms of source control, the kind of pollution management that will save a community the endless burdens and costs of eliminating pollution at discharge points throughout its stormdrain system. Without source controls communities will be forced to comply with water quality regulations either alone or in collaboration with other communities in the same watershed. The Chapter will emphasize the importance of collaboration as a way to achieve greater cost-effectiveness and to favor projects that bring multiple benefits to a community.

Theme 3: *Interagency collaboration and initiatives within shared watersheds.*

As with the collaboration for water quality results discussed previously, water supplies needed for future growth in the region depend on maximizing infrastructure and resource collaboration within the region and within each of the watersheds of the region. When agencies manage their water enterprises without a broad strategic and planning vision there is a greater certainty that opportunities for planning and cooperating more comprehensively will be lost. With these limitations, system strengths will be compromised, especially in emergency conditions.

- The draft will review circumstances in which collaboration will strengthen the performance of the region's water systems and deliver more cost-effective resources and reliability. These part of the Chapter will present key elements of the Draft 2005 California Water

Plan, a broadly formulated effort that emphasizes integrated watershed planning, variable climate conditions and the dangers of aging infrastructure throughout the state and federal water systems.

Theme 4: *The development of new local water resources and infrastructure.*

Because of recent state legislation, the region's future growth is now linked with water supplies. This growth, both infill and otherwise, will place new strains on the current water infrastructure. In some cases it will require retrofitting and replacing old systems; in others it will require extending systems to serve new customers. This infrastructure challenge ranges from system plumbing to water management practices and flexibility.

- The Chapter will review the recent legislative requirement that larger developments must have a long-range water supply certification in order to be approved for construction. Related to these certifications are the findings of the local water purveyor's Urban Water Management Plan. The Chapter will provide a composite summary of the 2005 Urban Water Management Plans adopted by the principle water agencies in the region. These Plans are required every 5 years and must be adopted by December 31, 2005. This composite will bring together the findings of a variety of regional water agencies that must look at the interplay between future growth in their service areas, different drought scenarios, and an assessment of infrastructure needs. The growth forecasts typically rely on SCAG data.

Theme 5: *The expansion of current water conservation programs.*

Water conservation is an indispensable element in the ability of our growing region to achieve needed water reliability. Outdoor consumption of water, either in agricultural water use or in residential landscape irrigation places the heaviest demands on the region's water supplies. : agriculture consumes about 80 percent of the state's water supply and residential landscape irrigation consumes between 50 and 80 percent of the household water supply. New irrigation practices and technology can reduce this outside use, along with changes in plant selection that work well with native, drought-tolerant conditions. Installation of water-saving devices and appliances in new and existing residences is another important conservation opportunity.

- The Chapter will document water conservation trends in the region, noting the success the region has enjoyed in recent years. The linkage of tiered water rates, new irrigation technologies, reduction of runoff and lower water bills will be discussed. Examples will be presented where water conservation goals and new landscaping concepts interact to create more drought tolerant communities that are visually appealing. Other examples of water conservation in Imperial and Coachella Counties will be discussed, along with related complications produced by new water management efforts that change historic practices.

Theme 6: *The on-going availability of imported supplemental water supplies.*

Imported water supplies are increasingly constrained by competing claims and environmental considerations. These concerns raise the importance of the CalFed Bay-Delta Program, the water supply impacts from habitat and other ecological activities throughout the state and other complex management and planning issues related to the Colorado River.

- The Chapter will provide a review of recent developments in supplies from the State Water Project, the Los Angeles Aqueduct and from the Colorado River. Each of these supplies is based in very complex political conditions. Each has significant environmental contingencies that expose these supplies to limitation and even reduction. These challenges and uncertainties in what represents the dominant share of the region's water supplies underscore the importance of local water initiatives that improve the drought resistance capabilities of the region.

Theme 7: *The beneficial use of water markets and transfers.*

The development of markets for the transfer of water between different basins is an important factor for improving the region's water reliability and for improving water quality in the region's water supplies. The ability of water agencies in the region to acquire surplus water from other areas encourages the development of more ambitious groundwater storage programs and makes possible the advantages of conjunctive water use.

- The Chapter will discuss water supplies as they occur and develop throughout California. Against this background, some of the water transfers that have been used to improve water reliability in the region will be described and evaluated for future viability. Key among these activities is the use of water transfers to increase water storage for future needs and to encourage the on-going clean up of contaminated groundwater in basins that are well-suited for future storage. Along with groundwater storage, the region's surface water storage options will be inventoried.

Theme 8: *The development of improved water treatment technologies.*

Current water treatment technologies are chemically and energy-intensive. Along with pollution source controls and natural treatment systems, new technological development needs to be encouraged that reduces the heavy reliance on these factors and minimizes by-products that impair the resulting water supplies. New treatment breakthroughs can also contribute to needed increases in water reclamation and reuse throughout the region, especially in the management and use of groundwater basins.

- The Chapter will inventory efforts in the region to clean up ocean water and brackish groundwater for use. New technologies for cleaning and desalting water have a significant bearing on the future of water supplies in the region. As treatment of wastewater and stormwater becomes more affordable (and when treatment by-products can be conveniently managed), the prospects for drought-proofing the region grow commensurately. Breakthroughs in treatment technologies will depend on continuing investments and innovation.

Theme 9: *The increased coordination of policy and resources among all levels of government.*

With a flexible water policy and resources infrastructure, comprehensive watershed-scale solutions and creative regional governance, water supply and water quality challenges can be met. Cost considerations are always important in meeting these challenges, but policy and program coordination can forge influential coalitions, reduce costs and improve the potentials for success.

- The Chapter will point out the role of system efficiencies in creating more reliable water supplies throughout California. These kinds of efficiencies require close coordination between water agencies that have limited practice with this kind of cooperation. Nevertheless, when institutional inertia and independent management habits are replaced by interactive planning and operating practices, it will be shown that water resources can better meet human and ecosystem needs.

MEMO

DATE: November 9, 2005

TO: Regional Comprehensive Plan Task Force

FROM: Annie Nam, Senior Regional Planner; (213) 236-1827; nam@scag.ca.gov

SUBJECT: Regional Comprehensive Plan, Finance Component

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Provide staff guidance/input on the recommended approach/scope for developing the financial component of the Regional Comprehensive Plan.

SUMMARY:

Currently staff anticipates engaging consultant assistance to develop financial strategies for each of the planning and resource management areas covered in the RCP. Specifically, funding opportunities would be identified for the development of new infrastructure; project specific and more general environmental/community mitigation needs; as well as local/community services. Financial strategies are expected to serve as incentives to local governments for consistent planning and implementation.

BACKGROUND:

Staff does not anticipate providing a full scale chapter on financial strategies for the RCP. Rather, a brief discussion of recommended financing options will be detailed at the close of each planning and resource management area chapter. Further, a “special focus section” will tie together each of the chapter discussion on financial strategies—providing a cross-cutting overview.

The preparation of the financial strategies will be iterative in nature—closely coordinated with ongoing work development for each of the RCP area chapters. The following discussion detailing the proposed scope of work has been provided for RCP task force review and feedback:

Proposed Scope of Work

Evaluate Extent of Infrastructure System/Associated Mitigation and Funding Needs

Consider the extent and condition of the region’s infrastructure system and financial needs consistent with the programs and specific planning strategies identified in the nine chapters of the RCP. This review should identify development capital requirements such as real estate, infrastructure, equipment and programmatic administration costs; operating/maintenance expenses as may be applicable; as well as environmental/community mitigation and local/service needs.

Identify Currently Available Resources and Estimated Funding Shortfalls

Prepare a regional inventory documenting current infrastructure resources for construction, maintenance, and mitigation. Assess any funding shortfalls associated with implementing the planning strategies identified in the RCP chapters as may be applicable.

MEMO

Develop a Report Identifying and Evaluating Alternative Funding/Financing Mechanisms

Analyze a range of financing alternatives. Provide an evaluation of all feasible sources of capital and financing mechanisms available—establishing linkages between the various planning and resource management area chapters to develop a comprehensive strategy for the SCAG region. Specific funding options to consider are as follows:

- Potential changes to land-use related policies/decisions that would capture value and generate revenue streams for proposed infrastructure improvement and mitigation initiatives.
- Application of tax incentives and/or financing instruments currently used in one sector of infrastructure development or resource management area to another.
- Consideration of precedents set by urban redevelopment authorities, federal and state agencies in developing funding programs that are more specifically adaptable at the regional level for a broader array of infrastructure projects and mitigation/local service needs.
- The leveraging of private capital for infrastructure and mitigation needs—reviews of public-private financing structures utilized elsewhere in the country and internationally.

In the evaluation of these kinds of funding/financing options, specific relevance to the SCAG region and associated costs/benefits should be carefully examined.

Recommend Specific Financial Strategies for the RCP

After analyzing financing alternatives, the most advantageous financing structures/mechanisms/incentives will be identified. Further, any administrative or regulatory/legal reforms needed to implement the financial strategies will be identified.

Incorporate Stakeholder Input/Feedback to Prepare Final “Special Focus Section” Report

The final financial strategies report should be prepared with the ongoing guidance of the RCP task force and other appropriate task forces/policy committees and relevant stakeholders.

MEMO

Date: November 21, 2005
To: Regional Comprehensive Plan Task Force
From: Jessica Kirchner, Associate Regional Planner
Subject: Regional Comprehensive Plan Open Space and Habitat Chapter

SUMMARY

The Regional Comprehensive Plan Task Force, at its October 24 meeting, discussed the approach and scope for the planned Open Space and Habitat Chapter. In particular, the Task Force members and other meeting participants identified potential outcomes and regional goals that could be specified within the chapter, and form a focus for staff activities. The Task Force approved a report to the Energy and Environment Committee, but also requested that staff present a revised chapter scope and approach for further review by the Task Force. This report is in response to that request.

BACKGROUND

The Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) is intended to serve as a useful tool implementing policies of the Regional Council. The approach for the overall development of the plan calls for a special emphasis on the Open Space and Habitat Chapter for the following reasons:

- The region's adopted 2% Strategy calls for increased urban development and growth in key strategic areas, while broadly supporting sustainability concepts and environmental protection. The region needs a well-articulated open space protection strategy to balance its urbanization strategy.
- There has been substantial planning work done within the region on open space and habitat issues, particularly at the county level, but little coordination among counties, at the regional scale, or between the region and the State.
- The State Resource Agencies has expressed an interest in pursuing a coordinated open space and habitat planning process with SCAG.
- Establishing a reliable, workable open space protection system is a key to establishing alternative environmental review procedures under State law.

As such, the RCP Task Force held an extended discussion on potential goals and outcomes for the RCP Open Space and Habitat Chapter. The results of that discussion are recorded in the attached revised scope and approach for the chapter.

Given concurrence from the Task Force and the EEC at the stage, SCAG staff will proceed to develop a draft chapter. Specific activities to be pursued are described in detail in the attachment. Particularly of note are the following:

MEMO

- The formation of a working group consisting of stakeholders
- The retention of a consultant to develop a comprehensive open space protection system
- Collaboration with State agencies on an iterative planning process
- Review of existing County level open space and habitat plans.

Staff will give periodic updates to the Task Force and anticipates presenting a draft chapter for consideration within 12 months.

Attachment: Chapter Scope and Approach

This draft Open Space and Habitat chapter approach, as presented, is preliminary and has not been subject to formal approval of the SCAG Regional Council or any Committee. The draft is based on the discussions of the RCP Task Force and is being made available at this time for information and for suggestions.

Preliminary Draft Scope and Approach for the Regional Comprehensive Plan: Open Space and Habitat Chapter

Develop a vision for open space preservation for Southern California

Action: Develop regional level analyses with a consistent look and uniform procedures and mitigation. This would provide a template that could be easily implemented at the local level.

Activities:

1. SCAG will consult with agencies, stakeholders and the task force, to create an open space vision for the region.
2. Staff will incorporate SCAG's Growth Vision/2% Strategy to help create a regional open space vision.

Outcomes

- a. The chapter will specify a number of acres that should be preserved and target specific areas for preservation.
- b. The regional vision will serve as a catalyst to subsequent work.

Identify suggested amount and type of parkland within urban settings

Action: The Open Space and Habitat chapter will attempt to develop measures of parkland and access appropriate for Southern California and delineate action steps to increase access to parks and open space for all Southern California residents.

Activities:

3. Staff will meet with stakeholders to ascertain park needs at the regional level.
4. Staff will include a discussion of agricultural lands and their importance to the region

Outcomes:

- a. Through consultation with stakeholders, staff will develop "parks to people" ratios based on SCAG's Growth Vision/2% Strategy

Identify measures to mitigate habitat impacts of transportation projects

Action: The Open Space and Habitat chapter will examine wildlife crossings at the regional level, building on the work done in Ventura County, and apply the knowledge gained at a regional scale. This analysis will include identification of important and restricted wildlife corridors to preserve habitat connectivity.

Activities:

5. Staff will also explore impacts to fisheries, marine life and waterways
6. Staff will incorporate regional wildlife corridors analysis into the open space chapter.

This draft Open Space and Habitat chapter approach, as presented, is preliminary and has not been subject to formal approval of the SCAG Regional Council or any Committee. The draft is based on the discussions of the RCP Task Force and is being made available at this time for information and for suggestions.

7. Staff will include a discussion of the benefits of parks/open space/natural areas on air quality and water quality.

Outcomes:

- a. Staff will develop habitat goals, including no net reduction due to development in species populations.
- b. Staff will identify key wildlife corridors for the region.

Identify financial mechanisms to accrue funding for open space protection

Action: A consultant is expected to be retained for tasks including (but not limited to) securing open space resources, forming a pool of funding for mitigation of impacts of new development, and providing discretionary incentive funding to cities and counties for adopting policies supportive of a regional growth strategy developing infrastructure

Activities:

8. Explore cumulative impacts due to the loss of open space for the region such as degradation of air and water quality.
9. Evaluate the “hidden” costs of the loss of open space – attempt to ascertain the true value of open space/natural areas
10. Explore alternative funding mechanisms for open space protection and preservation.

Outcomes:

- a. With the help of a consultant, staff will attempt to find more effective tools and monetary incentives to achieve open space goals.
- b. As a result, there will be better understanding of the cumulative impacts and “real” cost of loss of open space and natural areas.

Analyze existing state plans for open space, habitat, and parks. Recommend for future planning efforts based on consistency with the region’s desired outcomes

Action: The California Resources Agency has agreed, in concept, to collaborate on the chapter. Evaluation at the regional level will enable communities to see what has been done elsewhere. In addition, this process will be proactive rather than reactive (relying on the endangered species acts) and will facilitate broad community participation. This will help develop an iterative process whereby regional priorities influence other plans and vice versa.

Activities:

11. Staff will coordinate with the Resources Agency staff to ensure compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

Outcomes:

- a. Through the consultation process SCAG will help establish a consistent coordinated planning throughout the region.

This draft Open Space and Habitat chapter approach, as presented, is preliminary and has not been subject to formal approval of the SCAG Regional Council or any Committee. The draft is based on the discussions of the RCP Task Force and is being made available at this time for information and for suggestions.

Develop open space and habitat planning tools and best practices to be implemented at the local level

Action: Recognizing the benefits of parks are experienced at the local level, the open space and habitat chapter will include a “toolkit” for local governments who want to increase park space within their jurisdictions.

Activities:

12. Distinguish between parks (typically in developed areas) and natural areas (typically in non-developed areas).
13. SCAG will provide technical assistance to locals for linking parklands.
14. SCAG will share best practices uncovered during the process to educate locals on available tools.

Outcomes:

- a. SCAG will develop specific guidance on achieving open space goals with optional implementation.